



Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Cary F. Boswell
COMMISSIONER

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathleen McGehee
334-293-7500 or 1-800-441-7607

National organization launches web-based learning center in Alabama

MONTGOMERY- The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) chose Alabama to launch a comprehensive web-based learning center for professionals working with seniors with age-related vision loss.

The eLearning Center, available at www.afb.org/seniorsite/elearning, was recently unveiled in partnership with the Older Alabamians System of Information and Services (OASIS) program under the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. OASIS is the first agency to participate in the program.

"The eLearning Center is a marvelous resource for training both new and seasoned staff," said Julie Brock, OASIS program coordinator. " OASIS has worked very closely with AFB for many years. We are delighted to partner with them and the eLearning center in Alabama. We in Alabama always like to be first.

Featuring 21 mini courses on topics related to aging and vision loss, the AFB eLearning Center's goal is to give service providers the knowledge and skills needed to help older Americans with vision loss live active, independent lives.

"We created the eLearning Center to fill an information gap on how to help seniors cope with vision problems—a growing public health concern as the population ages," said Judy Scott, director of the AFB Center on Vision Loss. "Eye experts say that by the year 2030, rates of vision loss from conditions like age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy are expected to double."

Available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, the AFB eLearning Center provides busy professionals a convenient way to expand their knowledge of aging and vision loss. The curriculum was designed for professionals in the fields of aging and vision loss, including rehabilitation specialists, social workers, occupational therapists and more. The courses were created by experts from around the country and cover everything from the health and psychological aspects of vision loss to the tools seniors need to take charge of their lives and continue their favorite hobbies and activities.

OASIS is a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) that provides services for older Alabamians who have vision loss. ADRS is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.